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› August 2022

 **Latest release**

Characteristics of Employment, Australia

Weekly earnings of employees, casual workers, independent contractors, trade union membership, labour hire, job flexibility, job security

Reference period August 2022

Released 14/12/2022

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Key statistics

In August 2022:

- Median employee earnings was \$1,250 per week, an increase of \$50 since August 2021 (4.2%).
- 12.5% of employees were trade union members (1.4 million).
- 2.7 million casual employees (23% of employees, 20% of all employed), up from 2.4 million in August 2021.
- 1.1 million independent contractors (8% of all employed).

Topics

Statistics from the Characteristics of Employment survey are published in four topic-based releases.

- [Employee earnings \(/statistics/labour/earnings-and-work-hours/employee-earnings/latest-release\)](/statistics/labour/earnings-and-work-hours/employee-earnings/latest-release)
- [Working arrangements \(/statistics/labour/earnings-and-working-conditions/working-arrangements/latest-release\)](/statistics/labour/earnings-and-working-conditions/working-arrangements/latest-release)
- [Trade union membership \(/statistics/labour/earnings-and-work-hours/trade-union-membership/latest-release\)](/statistics/labour/earnings-and-work-hours/trade-union-membership/latest-release)
- [Labour hire workers \(/statistics/labour/earnings-and-working-conditions/labour-hire-workers/latest-release\)](/statistics/labour/earnings-and-working-conditions/labour-hire-workers/latest-release)

Microdata and TableBuilder

Characteristics of Employment microdata for 2014 to 2022 will be available in [TableBuilder \(/statistics/microdata-tablebuilder/tablebuilder\)](/statistics/microdata-tablebuilder/tablebuilder) and [DataLab \(/statistics/microdata-tablebuilder/datalab\)](/statistics/microdata-tablebuilder/datalab) from 16 December 2022. TableBuilder enables the creation of customised tables and graphs. For more information, refer to [Microdata and TableBuilder: Characteristics of Employment \(/statistics/microdata-tablebuilder/available-microdata-tablebuilder/characteristics-employment-australia\)](/statistics/microdata-tablebuilder/available-microdata-tablebuilder/characteristics-employment-australia).

Earnings guide

To learn more about our different labour measures, their purpose and how to use them, see our [Guide to labour statistics \(/statistics/understanding-statistics/guide-labour-statistics\)](/statistics/understanding-statistics/guide-labour-statistics). It provides summary information on labour market topics including [Earnings \(/statistics/understanding-statistics/guide-labour-statistics/earnings-guide\)](/statistics/understanding-statistics/guide-labour-statistics/earnings-guide) data.

Data downloads

Employee earnings

⬇ Download all (7.49 MB)

Table 1 - Employee earnings, 1975-2022

[↓ Download XLSX](#)
[892.57 KB]

Table 2 - Median earnings for employees by demographic characteristics, 2022

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[110.74 KB]

Table 3 - Distribution of earnings for employees by industry, 2022

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[123.82 KB]

Table 4 - Distribution of earnings for employees by occupation and skill level, 2022

[↓ Download XLSX](#)
[88.41 KB]

Table 5 - Distribution of earnings for employees by educational qualification, 2022

[↓ Download XLSX](#)
[82.35 KB]

Table 6 - Median earnings for employees by industry, occupation and educational qualification, 2022

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[102.5 KB]

Table 7 - Median earnings for multiple job holders, 2014-2022

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[6.53 MB]

Working arrangements

[↓ Download all \(7.53 MB\)](#)

Table 1 - Median earnings for employees and OMIEs by working arrangements, 2022

[↓ Download XLSX](#)
[115.63 KB]

Table 2 - Median earnings for employees and OMIEs by demographic characteristics, 2022

[↓ Download XLSX](#)
[113.21 KB]

Table 3 - Form of employment by demographic characteristics, 2022

[↓ Download XLSX](#)
[70.04 KB]

Table 4 - Form of employment by industry, occupation and educational qualification, 2022

[↓ Download XLSX](#)
[84.58 KB]

Table 5 - Independent contractors by whether had authority over own work, industry and occupation, 2022

[↓ Download XLSX](#)
[55.18 KB]

Table 6 - Employees on a fixed-term contract, 2014-2022

[↓ Download XLSX](#)
[7.24 MB]

Trade union membership

[↓ Download all \(3.27 MB\)](#)

Table 1 - Median earnings by full-time or part-time, state and trade union members in main job, 2004-2022

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[157.2 KB]

Table 2 - Median earnings for employees by trade union membership, 2014-2022

[↓ Download XLSX](#)
[3.09 MB]

Table 3 - Median earning for employees by duration (length) of current trade union membership, 2022

[↓ Download XLSX](#)
[88.53 KB]

Data item list

TableBuilder - Characteristics of employment, Data item list, 2014 to 2022

[↓ Download XLSX](#)
[248.14 KB]

DataLab - Characteristics of employment, Data item list, 2014 to 2022

[↓ Download XLSX](#)
[390.74 KB]

Historical - Employee earnings

Table 2 - Median earnings for employees by demographic characteristics, 2014-2021

[↓ Download ZIP](#)

[838.52 KB]

Table 3 - Distribution of earnings for employees by industry, 2014-2021

[↓ Download ZIP](#)

[915.59 KB]

Table 4 - Distribution of earnings for employees by occupation and skill level, 2014-2021

[↓ Download ZIP](#)

[654.73 KB]

Table 5 - Distribution of earnings for employees by educational qualification, 2016-2021

[↓ Download ZIP](#)

[452.7 KB]

Table 6 - Median earnings for employees by industry, occupation and educational qualification, 2016-2021

[↓ Download ZIP](#)

[572.92 KB]

Historical - Working arrangements

Table 1 - Median earnings for employees and OMIEs by working arrangements, 2014-2021

[↓ Download ZIP](#)

[323.28 KB]

Table 2 - Median earnings for employees and OMIEs by demographic characteristics, 2014-2021

[↓ Download ZIP](#)

[828.12 KB]

Table 3 - Form of employment by demographic characteristics, 2014-2021

[↓ Download ZIP](#)

[520.77 KB]

Table 4 - Form of employment by industry, occupation and educational qualification, 2014-2021

[↓ Download ZIP](#)

[628.93 KB]

Table 5 - Independent contractors by whether had authority over own work, industry and occupation, 2014-2021

[↓ Download ZIP](#)

[198.7 KB]

Historical - Trade union membership

Table 3 - Median Earning for employees by duration (length) of current trade union membership, 2014-2021

[↓ Download ZIP](#)

[305.13 KB]

Previous catalogue number

This release previously used catalogue number 6333.0*.

Prior to 2014, statistics were published in:

- [Employee Earnings, Benefits and Trade Union Membership](https://www.abs.gov.au/AUSSTATS/abs@.nsf/second+level+view?ReadForm&prodno=6310.0&viewtitle=Employee%20Earnings,%20Benefits%20and%20Trade%20Union%20Membersh ip,%20Australia~August%202013~Latest~04/06/2014&&tabname=Past%20Future%20Issues&prodno=6310.0&issue=August%202013&num=&view=&_) (https://www.abs.gov.au/AUSSTATS/abs@.nsf/second+level+view?ReadForm&prodno=6310.0&viewtitle=Employee%20Earnings,%20Benefits%20and%20Trade%20Union%20Membersh ip,%20Australia~August%202013~Latest~04/06/2014&&tabname=Past%20Future%20Issues&prodno=6310.0&issue=August%202013&num=&view=&_) (6310.0), 1975-2013
- [Forms of Employment](https://www.abs.gov.au/AUSSTATS/abs@.nsf/second+level+view?ReadForm&prodno=6359.0&viewtitle=Forms%20of%20Employment,%20Australia~November%202013~Latest~07/05/2014&&tabname=Past%20Future%20Issues&prodno=6359.0&issue=November%202013&num=&view=&_) (https://www.abs.gov.au/AUSSTATS/abs@.nsf/second+level+view?ReadForm&prodno=6359.0&viewtitle=Forms%20of%20Employment,%20Australia~November%202013~Latest~07/05/2014&&tabname=Past%20Future%20Issues&prodno=6359.0&issue=November%202013&num=&view=&_) (6359.0), 1998-2013
- [Working Time Arrangements](https://www.abs.gov.au/AUSSTATS/abs@.nsf/second+level+view?ReadForm&prodno=6342.0&viewtitle=Working%20Time%20Arrangements,%20Australia~November%202012~Latest~03/05/2013&&tabname=Past%20Future%20Issues&prodno=6342.0&issue=November%202012&num=&view=&_) (https://www.abs.gov.au/AUSSTATS/abs@.nsf/second+level+view?ReadForm&prodno=6342.0&viewtitle=Working%20Time%20Arrangements,%20Australia~November%202012~Latest~03/05/2013&&tabname=Past%20Future%20Issues&prodno=6342.0&issue=November%202012&num=&view=&_) (6342.0), 1993-2012
- [Locations of Work](https://www.abs.gov.au/AUSSTATS/abs@.nsf/second+level+view?ReadForm&prodno=6275.0&viewtitle=Locations%20of%20Work~Nov%202008~Latest~08/05/2009&&tabname=Past%20Future%20Issues&prodno=6275.0&issue=Nov%202008&num=&view=&_) (https://www.abs.gov.au/AUSSTATS/abs@.nsf/second+level+view?ReadForm&prodno=6275.0&viewtitle=Locations%20of%20Work~Nov%202008~Latest~08/05/2009&&tabname=Past%20Future%20Issues&prodno=6275.0&issue=Nov%202008&num=&view=&_) (6275.0), 1989-2008
- [Employment Benefits](https://www.abs.gov.au/AUSSTATS/abs@.nsf/second+level+view?ReadForm&prodno=6334.0&viewtitle=Employment%20Benefits,%20Australia~Aug%201992~Latest~15/02/1993&&tabname=Past%20Future%20Issues&prodno=6334.0&issue=Aug%201992&num=&view=&_) (https://www.abs.gov.au/AUSSTATS/abs@.nsf/second+level+view?ReadForm&prodno=6334.0&viewtitle=Employment%20Benefits,%20Australia~Aug%201992~Latest~15/02/1993&&tabname=Past%20Future%20Issues&prodno=6334.0&issue=Aug%201992&num=&view=&_) (6334.0), 1979-1994
- [Trade Union Members](https://www.abs.gov.au/AUSSTATS/abs@.nsf/second+level+view?ReadForm&prodno=6325.0&viewtitle=Trade%20Union%20Members,%20Australia~August%202013~Latest~04/06/2014&&tabname=Past%20Future%20Issues&prodno=6325.0&issue=August%202013&num=&view=&_) (https://www.abs.gov.au/AUSSTATS/abs@.nsf/second+level+view?ReadForm&prodno=6325.0&viewtitle=Trade%20Union%20Members,%20Australia~August%202013~Latest~04/06/2014&&tabname=Past%20Future%20Issues&prodno=6325.0&issue=August%202013&num=&view=&_) (6325.0), 1975-2013

[viewtitle=Trade%20Union%20Members,%20Australia~August%201996~Latest~09/02/1997&&tabname=Past%20Future%20Issues&prodno=6325.0&issue=August%201996&num=&view=&_ \(6325.0\), 1976-1996](#)

- [Multiple Jobholding \(https://www.abs.gov.au/AUSSTATS/abs@.nsf/second+level+view?ReadForm&prodno=6216.0&viewtitle=Multiple%20Jobholding,%20Australia~Aug%201997~Latest~20/03/1998&&tabname=Past%20Future%20Issues&prodno=6216.0&issue=Aug%201997&num=&view=&_ \(6216.0\), 1965-1997](#)

*Note: Catalogue number 6333.0 was previously used for [Working Conditions, Australia \(Preliminary\) \(https://www.abs.gov.au/AUSSTATS/abs@.nsf/DetailsPage/6335.0Feb-May%201979?OpenDocument\)_](#), Feb to May 1979.

Methodology

[Characteristics of Employment, Australia methodology, August 2022](#)